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Action On Cuba Is Needed

A wave of pessimism has followed the dismal failure of the feeble revolutionary effort to free Cuba.

In the aftermath it seems obvious that Central Intelligence was badly at fault, the Cuban rebels lacked potent arms and that top men in Washington miscalculated Castro strength under both the Eisenhower and Kennedy Administrations.

That is now water over the dam.

We have suffered a propaganda defeat and a loss of prestige. We were acting in a clumsy manner in a very delicate international matter.

Just how the CIA failed so badly in judging how strong a hold Castro had on the Cuban people is hard to understand. If our top cloak-and-dagger men cannot size up conditions in an island 90 miles from our own shore — with hundreds of miles of open coastline open to running by small boats — how good is their judgment concerning the situation in more remote and less accessible lands?

Our enemies are gloating and our major Allies are appalled at this sad turn of events. In Latin America, where we should have unified sup-

port, there are cries of "Yankee imperialism" again. It would seem at times as though national leaders there feared this bogus "imperialism" more than they feared Communism.

It would seem that in the future we are going to have to be swayed less by such criticism and moved more by our own interests. As President Kennedy intimated in his speech to the American Society of Newspaper Editors, if this "policy of non-action" continues we will have to take forceful action to end this Communist beachhead in the Americas ourselves.

Drew Pearson suggests on this page today that an arms blockade may be in the making. This is also hinted elsewhere. A sea blockade could be easily enforced, although it would be contrary to our national policies, but enforcing an air blockade against Soviet planes would be something else again.

One thing is certain.

The American people are unified in the belief that something must be done about Castro. Their backbone has been stiffened. They want action rather than continued exchanges of tough words.